

KRUG IRON WORKS  
(G. Krug and Son, Inc.)  
415 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore  
Independent City  
Maryland

HABS MD-1376  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### KRUG IRON WORKS (G. Krug and Son, Inc.)

HABS No. MD-1376

Location: 415 West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

UTM: Zone 118 E 360100 N 4350300

Coordinates for the Krug Iron Works are 39.292686 N, 76.621972 W. These were obtained through Google Earth in February 2011 and it is presumed with NAD1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

Present Owners  
& Occupant:

G. Krug and Son, Inc.

Significance:

In business since 1810, the Krug Iron Works is a significant survivor of Baltimore city industry, and its legacy is seen in the decorative ironwork gracing buildings throughout the city. The company began as a blacksmith's shop and evolved with the craft, moving from hand processes to mechanized production and, by mid century, specializing in architectural details such as church bells and iron fence railings and grilles. The incorporation of cast iron elements, supplied by the Baltimore foundry Bartlett and Hayward, into the designs allowed for more elaborate and intricate creations at a lower cost. The cast iron elements, plus the use of steam-powered machinery as it became available, made the production more efficient and are suggestive of Krug's ability to adapt to shifts within the industry. While the late nineteenth-century punch press is still used, welding has supplanted most work in the forge and self-powered drill presses have replaced their belt-driven forebears.

The metalworking business is located in its original shop in downtown Baltimore.

Description:

Krug Iron Works is housed in its original building, albeit with shed additions to the rear to accommodate expanded shop facilities. Fronting Saratoga Street are two buildings, one a two-story gable-roofed structure dating from the nineteenth century and the other adjoining it, now a four-story, two-bay wide edifice. Evidence on the interior suggests that this part of the iron works was also a two-story, gable-roofed building initially, a theory further supported by the use of Flemish bond on the first two stories and stretcher bond

above. The earliest shop was located in the two-story building; this building has a side gable roof, punctuated by a dormer, and is made of brick masonry laid in 5:1 common bond. Fenestration consists of sash windows with wood sills, on the north front and east side facades, and two iron doors on the front. The bottom sash is protected by barred window guards. Behind the early shop on the east side of the lot is a three-story shed addition. Adjacent, to the west, is another shed two stories in height and five bays long. It appears to be contemporary with the east addition. The business office is located to the west, on the first floor, while the interior of the early shop contains a large workroom. Replacement mantels in the office are representative of this building's late nineteenth-century remodeling.

Sources:

Barker, Ellen L. "G. Krug and Son, Makers of Artistic Wrought Iron Work." *Maryland Historical Magazine* 64 (1969).

"Krug Iron Works," Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory (Baltimore city B-1038).

Zembala, Dennis and Mark R. Edwards. "Krug Iron Works," Nomination, prepared November 1980, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service.